

The Path

To Preparedness

Emergency Planning Workshop for Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities

The OPHPR division along with the Bureau of Emergency Management hosted the first annual Emergency Planning workshop for Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities on April 14th, 2006 at the Urbana Fire Hall.

The workshop focused on the special needs and concerns that need to be addressed in an emergency for Long Term Care and Assisted Living facilities. The response to the workshop from the various facilities within the county was overwhelming, with only one facility not in attendance.

The workshop kicked off with a light breakfast for all in attendance; six individuals from Frederick County Emergency Management, Montgomery County Health Department, American Red Cross, and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Systems presented emergency planning strategies to the group.

Overall the day was a huge success for all parties involved and interest was expressed by the facilities to have more workshops in the future.

A special thanks to Jack Markey, Lynn Weiland, John Donahue and Randy Peterson for volunteering their time and expertise in emergency preparedness.



April 14th
2006

First
Annual

Emergency

Planning

Workshop

Apothe-Carry 2006 Exercise

The Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response will be participating in an Apothe-Carry Exercise with the State of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Centers of Disease Control.

The Apothe-Carry exercise is a full-scale exercise of the Strategic National Stockpile with a focus on the Receipt, Storage, and Staging procedures.

The goal of the exercise is to receive the SNS medical supplies, inventory and distribute to various clinic sites.

The Apothe-Carry exercise is scheduled for August 2006.



Avian Flu

What is Avian Flu?

Avian influenza - commonly called "bird flu" - is an infection caused by influenza viruses that occur naturally in birds. The Avian Influenza viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese and guinea fowl as well as a wide variety of other birds, including migratory waterfowl. Each year, there is a flu season for birds just as there is for humans and, as with people, some forms of the flu are worse than others.

How is the disease spread?

Avian Influenza is primarily spread by direct contact between healthy birds and infected birds, and through indirect contact with contaminated equipment and materials. The virus is excreted through the feces of infected birds and through secretions from the nose, mouth and eyes.

Is Human Health Threaten?

Avian Influenza poses no known serious threat to human health, however some strains of viruses can be infectious to people. Since December 2003, a growing number of Asian countries have reported outbreaks of Avian Influenza in chickens and ducks. Humans also have been affected, most of who had direct contact with infected birds.

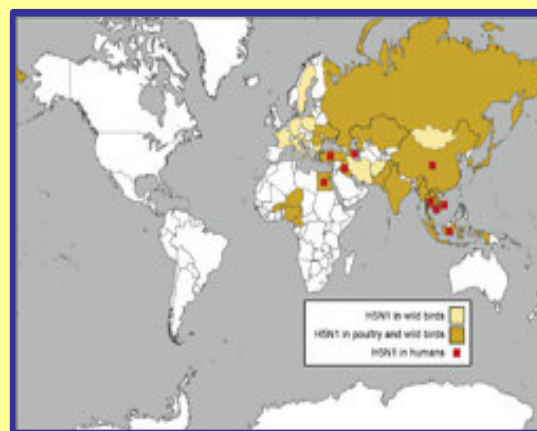
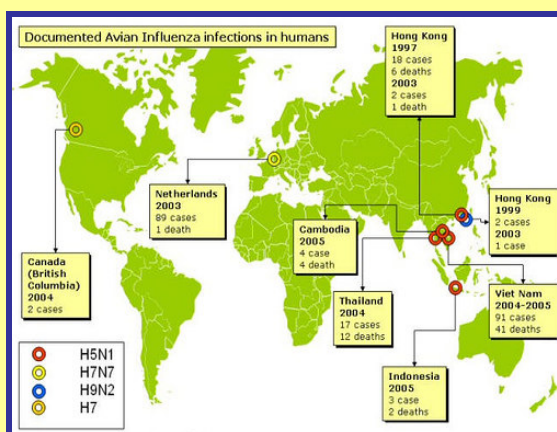
The rapid spread of Avian Influenza in 2004 and 2005 is historically unprecedented and of growing concern for human health as well as for animal health.

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006			Total
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	7	5
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	6	6
China	0	0	0	0	8	5	8	6	16	11
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	2
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	17	11	13	12	30	23
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Thailand	0	0	17	12	5	2	0	0	22	14
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	12	4
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	93	42
Total	3	3	46	32	95	41	48	33	192	109

Does Avian Influenza Exist in the United States?

There is no evidence that Avian Influenza currently exists in the United States. Historically, there have been three outbreaks in poultry in this country--in 1924, 1983 and 2004. No significant human illness resulted from these outbreaks. The spread of the avian virus across eastern Asia and into Europe represents a significant threat, with health professionals concerned about a potential human pandemic.

Nations With Confirmed Cases of Avian Influenza



Vaccination and Treatment for Avian Flu in Humans

There currently is no commercially available vaccine to protect humans against the avian virus that is being seen in Asia and Europe. A vaccine cannot be produced until a new pandemic influenza virus emerges and is identified. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is addressing the problem in a number of ways.

- 🌐 Development of pre-pandemic vaccines based on current lethal strains
- 🌐 Collaboration with the industry to increase the Nation's vaccine production capacity
- 🌐 Seeking ways to expand or extend the existing supply
- 🌐 Research in the development of new types of influenza vaccines.

Studies done in laboratories suggest that some of the prescription medicines approved in the United States for human influenza viruses should work in treating Avian Influenza infection in humans. However, influenza viruses can become resistant to these drugs, so these medications may not always work.

Visit:

www.co.frederick.md.us/healthdept/emergencyresponse

QUARTERLY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

On April 7th, 2006 the OPHPR division held their quarterly Emergency Response training for all FCHD first responders. The focus of the training was the introduction of the new fit testing Port-a-Count machine and procedures for outbreak investigation.

The first responders participated in an interactive model of various emergency response stations, i.e. client interviews, ADS, specimen collection, chain of custody forms, donning and doffing of personal protective equipment which is used during an outbreak investigation.



National Incident Management System Training

Who has to take NIMS training?

All federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response must be NIMS trained.

This includes all emergency services such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel.

All Frederick County Health Department staff is required to take the NIMS IS-00700 training by January 2007.

The Frederick County Health Department staff should contact their supervisor regarding details for testing or the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response.

<http://168.143.180.84/fema/VC/is700%5FNIMS/CourseMenu.cfm?CFID=404129&CFTOKEN=82853241>



First Responders Emergency Response Quarterly Training:

When: Friday, June 9th, 2006
Time : 8:00am – 12:00pm
Where: FCHD Auditorium "C"

Brown Bag Learning Lunch Series

When: Thursday, July 6th, 2006
Time: 12:00pm – 12:55pm
Where: FCHD Auditorium "C"
Topic: Outbreak Investigation

Visit:

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